(b) if so, the details of the offer made on the subject to different aspiring partners; and

(c) the details of the pros and cons of the partnership with different aspirants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Disinvestment in Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. has been approved 'in principle' by the Government. No decision, however, in respect of the percentage of equity to be disinvested has been taken so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Views of Ministry of Surface Transport over disinvestment of SCI

2984. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the views of the Ministry of Surface Transport for disinvestment in the Shipping Corporation of India; and

(b) the decision taken in this regard keeping in view the fact that SCI earned Rs. 180 crores project last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) After taking account of the views of all concerned departments, so far disinvestment in Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. has been approved 'in principle' by the Government. Before a final decision on disinvestment in SCI is taken, the views of all the concerned departments/ministries would be obtained and considered through inter ministerial consultations at various levels. Amendments and improvements, if any, suggested by such departments/ministries would be considered while arriving at the final decision. The financial performance of the company is also duly considered while taking such decisions.

PSUs running in profit or loss

†2985. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTIRES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of undertakings in the public sector at present in the country and the number of those PSUs which are running in profit or loss, separately;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have made an effort to ascertain the causes of losses of those PSUs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per Public Enterprises Survey 1998-99, which was laid in the Rajya Sabha on 15.3.2000, there were 235 operating Central Public Sector Undertakings as on 31.3.99, till which period the information is available. Out of these, 127 undertakings earned profits, 106 incurred losses and remaining two neither earned profit nor incurred loss.

(b) to (d) The causes for losses are enterprise specific. However, some of the causes in general include old plant and machinery, outdated technology, greater competition, higher input costs, financial resource crunch, surplus manpower etc.

Top posts lying vacant in PSUs

2986. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that top posts like Chairman/CMD/Director etc. are lying vacant in many PSUs and not-filled up, till date;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, PSU-wise and since when such vacancies are lying;

(c) what are the reasons for not filling up the posts; and

(d) by when Government propose to fill the posts for the sake of administrative control/efficiency, etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) 29 posts of Chief Executives (Chairman/CMD/MD) and 42 posts of Functional Directors were lying vacant in different PSUs as on 31.7.2000. The details are given in the Statement (*See* below)